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Cooling Off

The two new planks of the Hylan platform are dearer milk and free riot privileges against any one presuming to buy milk at present prices. But they are not making a hit.

The public's conduct shows it has increasing comprehension of what the strike of the milk wagon drivers is about; that it does not care for higher prices—thinks prices are high enough and that consumers may not fairly be asked to guarantee to the drivers a minimum of $46.25 a week, plus a commission on all sales.

As to the free riot part of the Mayor's program and non-interference with the stoning of those who dare to visit milk stations, the rank and file of the police failed to understand what was expected. They have persisted in giving police protection, especially when they found themselves attacked.

So there is a notable cooling of the allegiance of His Honor to his new principles. He is not so sure that he will make a net gain by serving a violent minority to the injury of the great majority.

The public is weary of selfish minority rule. It is not in a mood to have its health attacked, its comfort destroyed and its pockets rifled to advance the political fortunes of the Mayor.

Divided and Beaten

The vote in the Senate against the Smoot amendment to the tax revision bill, an amendment which provided for a 1 per cent levy on the sales of manufacturers, ends sales tax discussion for the present. But the sales tax idea is not killed. It has made remarkable progress. Senator Smoot is not far wrong when he estimates that three-fourths of the country now favors the sales tax principle, whereas a year ago few had knowledge of it.

That which brought about the defeat of the Smoot amendment was the inability of sales tax advocates to agree on the form of the sales tax. It suffered from the same weakness that so long prevented the creation of an elastic currency system, though the desirability of currency elasticity was conceded.

Three differing forms have divided the allegiance of sales tax advocates. Many insisted on a general turnover tax on the French model, with every sale subject to levy. This was attacked as favoring large business concerns, which through many processes convert raw materials into salable products, and as disfavoring single-process converters. Moreover, it was said the turn-over tax opened the way to pyramiding taxes. Others said the tax should be merely on retail sales and be but once imposed. But what is a retail sale? The third form was along the lines of the Canadian impost on manufactured output, with the tax concealed in the price. The last form was the one selected by Senator Smoot to push.

When next they approach Congress sales taxers should be together in behalf of a single proposal. Then this proposal is likely to be adopted.

Ireland's Silesia

The Ulster question, at first one of eight counties, sank to one of six counties. Now the question relates to only two counties—Tyrone and Fremanagh.

In these two counties, if Lloyd George has his way, a plebiscite will be held, with the resident population declaring what districts prefer to adhere to the Belfast government and what to the Dublin government if established. It is to be taken for granted that the British Prime Minister would not deem it worth while to publish this proposal if he did not have satisfactory assurances from the South Ireland leaders that they are willing to abide by the plebiscite; that to the other four Ulster counties they concede the right to be separated.

Ulster's case has been based on the principle of self-determination, and Sinn Féiners who demanded self-determination for themselves could make little headway when denying it to others. Now, it is not easy to see how the Ulster majority will be able to command support if it denies to Tyrone and Fermanagh the privilege of saying in whose house they will abide. There is difference of opinion as to what the two counties prefer. The truth cannot well be ascertained except by popular vote.

Another long step toward an Irish settlement has been taken. Little now remains subject to serious dispute. The desire on both sides for a settlement is so strong that it has been proof against the tricks that heretofore have served to keep Great Britain and Ireland apart.

Ambassador Harvey's Latest

Ambassador Harvey, not discouraged by the Administration's indirect repudiation of his speech of six months ago, again takes himself out of the company of the tongue-tied. In a burst of declamatory candor he announces not only what the foreign policy of this country is but what it is to be.

It is his sad business, he says with great melancholy, to be an illusion dispeller. But fate has assigned the role to him. Prominent Englishmen and Frenchmen having ventured to suggest that a closer union of France and Great Britain would be in the interest of peace, and to say that perhaps the United States may eventually join the combination, Mr. Harvey solemnly lectures those who entertain this hope. At a London dinner, hurling quotations from the Farewell Address at his hearers, he rebuked their presumption.

It is not of great consequence what Mr. Harvey thinks or says on the topic he discussed. Not long ago he did not construe the words of Washington as he now construes them. He saw great merit in co-operation with the nations whose ideas are largely the same as our own. Having changed his mind once, he may change it again.

But it is of consequence to have knowledge of who, if anybody, authorized the ambassador to define and declare the attitude of America. President Harding and Secretary Hughes may be acquitted of conferring authority on him. The throwing of such a large monkey wrench into the machinery of the Washington conference is not suggestive of their methods. Even though they wished to cool British and French enthusiasm for an alliance, such a Hotspur of discourse as Mr. Harvey would hardly be chosen to make the communication. The speech of the ambassador may be regarded as an enterprise of his own.

Between the word "alliance" and the word "association" lexicographers find a large area of difference. But statesmen do not. The mild term "entente" was as strong a link as the most detailed pledges. Indeed, an indefinite and reserved commitment is ordinarily more durable than one that is explicit. Permanent alliances by this country? Of course not. A general understanding? To a great extent it already exists.

His Word

It seems but yesterday, and yet it is just a year ago this month, that the Hearst-Tammany manikin, who is begging the people of this great city to return him as Mayor on Tuesday next, was caught with the goods in the building scandal from which John Hettrick emerged in a suit of convict's stripes.

It is not intended to enter here upon a discussion of all the circumstances of the association of Hylan and Hettrick which led the manikin to direct the rescinding of $15,000,000 worth of terra cotta school contracts, so that contracts for $16,000,000 worth of limestone could be substituted. It is sufficient to recall that Hettrick at the time represented the Brindell building ring and the limestone interests. Now let us turn to the record of the Lockwood Committee and measure the worth of Hylan's word in the light of the fact that he had known Hettrick for twenty years and that Hettrick, as late as September 14, 1918, had offered the Hearst manikin the political support of the building trades unions if he would sign a limestone contract of $2,372,000 for the courthouse, which has yet to be built.

Thus stands the Mayor's testimony as adduced by Mr. Samuel Untermyer:

> "When did you meet Hettrick?"
>
> "I have never met him. Some one who might have been Hettrick came to my office on February 9, 1919, and talked to me about terra cotta and labor matters."
>
> "You never heard of Hettrick prior to February 9, 1919?"
>
> "I don't remember having heard of him until after that letter dated September 14, 1920."

That was the "rescinding" letter written by Hettrick for the Mayor, signed by the manikin on the dotted line and sent by him to the members of the Board of Education.

> "You took the statement of a man (Hettrick) whose name you don't know and you wrote it over your own name and sent it to the Board of Education and they acted on it and changed from terra cotta to limestone?"
>
> "I don't know that they acted on it."
>
> "You mean you cannot tell us today whether they changed?"
>
> "I don't know whether it was changed or not."

Brought back to Hettrick in an endeavor to wring from him the truth as to their relations, Hylan continued:

> "I don't remember ever meeting Hettrick; still it must have been Hettrick I met and talked with, and wrote letters to."
>
> "Don't know him by name?"
>
> "I couldn't identify him if he was in this room."
>
> "How did you just come into contact with him?"
>
> "He must have come to the office. Whoever spoke to me about terra cotta brick must have seen me. That may have been Hettrick."
>
> "But you have seen the man many times, have had conferences with him and have written him and received a memorandum from him, which you copied verbatim and sent on to the Board of Education?"
>
> "I probably met him, but don't remember him by name. Still I may know him if you produce him here."

And so on *ad nauseam*.

There you have this manikin of Hearst and Murphy, who whines that he has made "mistakes," but only through the impulses of "an honest heart." An honest heart and save the mark!

What is Hylan's word worth to you as a voter? That's the point. Can you possibly accept it in view of the Hettrick record, let alone the four years of broken promises? Can you possibly accept it as against that of a man like Henry H. Curran, who has kept faith, happen what might, during ten years of constant and constructive public service?

Masterly Economy

President Harding's accomplishments in the way of reducing government expenditure are beginning to take a shape in which the figures speak for themselves. Critics of the Administration have been saying that much of the reduction for which credit has been given to Congress was a reduction on paper only—meaning that cuts in the appropriation bills would be offset later by deficiency allowances. They would have had to be offset this year to a considerable extent, undoubtedly, but for the President's determination to restrain the spenders.

The estimates for 1921-'22 were prepared by the Wilson Administration. There was no budget law in effect then, and spendthrifts like Mr. Baker and Mr. Daniels still had a free hand. Secretary Houston asked Congress for appropriations totaling $5,259,000,000. Congress granted much less, the appropriations made amounting to a little more than $3,800,000,000.

But many hold-over obligations had to be assumed by the Treasury along with a few new obligations—notably a charge of $120,000,000 for the better care of the disabled veterans. Secretary Mellon reported on August 4 last that the expenditures for 1921-'22 would run as high as $4,554,000,000.

At this point Mr. Harding and General Dawes stepped in. They told the department and bureau chiefs that operating costs must be scaled down. On August 10 it was announced that the government would find a way to save $520,000,000, bringing the outlay for the year down to $4,034,000,000. Sending in the deficiency estimates for 1921-'22 last Thursday the President announced that a further saving of $94,000,000 would be made, reducing the 1921-'22 total to $3,940,000,000. Since Congress appropriated $3,800,000,000 and is now asked to grant deficiencies of $187,000,000, expenditure for the year will be within the appropriations.

This is an extraordinary record in retrenchment. For 1921-'22 the government will spend $1,319,000,000 less than Secretary Houston thought it would be possible for it to get along on.

Premier Hara

Premier Hara of Japan, assassinated yesterday, was the first commoner to head a Cabinet in his country. He had been long in public life, as a newspaper editor, as a functionary in the Foreign Office and later as a party leader and minister.

Hara was personally, however, more of a liberal than either of them was, and his own ministry, dating from 1918, has been regarded as marking a reaction from the brusque imperialism which served the twenty-one demands on China and brought about the Chinese boycott. It would be more accurate, perhaps, to describe Hara as a moderate. He saw that Japan must make concessions to the demand for more democracy within which grew out of the war and its social and economic ferments, and also must soften the distrust abroad which Japan's aggressiveness in Asia had aroused. But he wanted to make political progress at home slowly and cautiously, and in foreign relations his government has been obliged to maintain a firm front against alien criticism, which Japanese of all classes are prompt to resent. He could not, of course, retain office unless he remained acceptable to the small inner circle of statesmen who are still the masters of Japan.

Premiers change, but this inner circle doesn't change. To many friendly observers of Japanese life and politics the Far Eastern question is in its essence a domestic Japanese question. They see its solution only in the gradual democratization of the Japanese people, who, in their view, have more to gain at home in the way of freedom and economic betterment than they have at stake across the seas. Their day hasn't come. Yet statesmen like Hara are probably contributing to bring it nearer.

A Span, Not a Tandem

The teasing question of whether the Far Eastern problem should take precedence over armament limitation has a strange fascination for some minds—a fascination equaling that excited by the question of which hen is the true mother of a chicken.

The two matters being interdependent, consideration of one without consideration of the other is necessary. The two are a span, not a tandem. And while it is true that the removal of causes of international misunderstanding is essential to the lessening of armaments yet there is nothing to prevent the conference from considering the two classes of problems in whatever order is the more expedient.

The Japanese apprehensions that, unless armament limitation is discussed before the Far Eastern problems, the conference may strike a snag are surely uncalled for. That the Japanese express this view is not in itself surprising. But public sentiment in America does not share Japanese misgivings. Political conditions determine the size of armaments, and armaments, in turn, depend upon policy.

In the end the conference itself will adopt its own agenda. America and Japan are both free to suggest any order they please. But it will be difficult for the conference to escape the familiar method of considering various questions practically contemporaneously. The tandem fashion has advantages in looks, but in practice a span pulls more strongly.

The Tribune, when referring to sitting members of the Court of General Sessions who are candidates for election, inadvertently omitted the name of Judge Talley. Judge Talley, whose name is on the official ballot, was appointed to General Sessions by Governor Smith.

The Police Reserves

Incidents Pointing to Their Use as Hearst-Hylan Adjunct

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: The article under the caption "Dwyer's Inspection Becomes Hylan Plea" in to-day's Tribune corroborates the well known fact of the effort to make the Police Reserves an adjunct of the Hearst-Hylan organization.

As a member of the Home Defense League, organized under and by Commissioner Arthur Woods and reorganized by Commissioner Enright in 1918, I was attached to the 37th Precinct Company.

The service was voluntary and without compensation. The reserves were mobilized at Sheepshead Bay, July 4, 1918, at 10 o'clock a. m. for inspection by Mayor Hylan and Commissioner Enright, who condescended to appear for the purpose at 4:30 p. m.

After disbanding and while in uniform we were approached by several men, distributing facsimile four page "Evening Journals," and when I declined acceptance of a copy, remarking that the Hearst papers were both un-American and unpatriotic, I was threatened with a summons to court, where Hearst's counsel would force me to retract. I never received the summons.

Service in the reserves was necessarily limited by many of its members to night, Sunday and holiday duty, except in extreme emergencies.

This applied to my personal service and was understood by the commanding officer of the reserves of the 37th Precinct. Notwithstanding this fact I was frequently summoned for day duty during September and October, 1918.

It was known that I was a Republican, and from other significant incidents occurring to myself and other members we concluded we who did not vote with the Hearst-Hylan outfit were being "urged" out of the reserves.

ALONZO CORSA.

New York, Nov. 3, 1921.

A Word for Fox Hills

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: We have read most of the criticisms of Fox Hills, and in justice to Dr. Cobb and his staff wish to give our favorable testimony after nine months of weekly observation.

We have noted a steady improvement in the buildings, grounds and general atmosphere of the hospital at Fox Hills. The food is of the best; that is the opinion of the patients of the several wards in which it is our privilege to work. We have been in at odd times, and can testify that patients receive good treatment; indeed, the men in our wards say so themselves.

Fox Hills, as we understand it, is a government institution, and cannot be discarded by Dr. Cobb and his staff at their pleasure. It is the hope of all of us that our government will supply an up-to-date and well equipped modern hospital; in the mean time it would be well to discontinue destructive criticism and recognize the efforts of the administration at Fox Hills in making a fairly good hospital out of the material at hand.

MAUDE W. DANFORTH,
Chairman Hospitalization Committee,
American Legion Auxiliary.
East Orange, N. J., Nov. 1, 1921.

Learning on Compulsion

(From The Louisville Courier Journal)

Practically nobody understands taxation, or can be gotten to take an interest in its details, but nowadays hardly any one can stand under taxation, so eventually everybody may be forced to acquire some knowledge of the problem.

The Conning Tower

Substitutes

"Let drivers strike!" the lover said
What time he gazed into her eyes,
"For we on honey dew have fed
And drunk the milk of Paradise."

"Not that it is important," telephones G. S. K., "but I think I know why the milkmen are striking." Pressed for a revelation of his secret, the Dean of Playwrights answered, "For drivers' reasons."

Anderson humbled Tilden in a five-cent match in Chicago.—The Tribune. Headline: Champion Turns Pro.

THE DIARY OF OUR OWN SAMUEL PEPYS

November 2—Early up, and to the office, and finished my stint betimes, and so to luncheon, and sate between H. Canby and A. P. Herbert, and had a pleasant bantering time of it, and made a speech before what seemed to me thousands of people, and Mr. Herbert told me it was the best speech ever he heard in all his life, and I thought it good, too. So to Kate's for a few minutes, and so home to don my black suit, and so to dinner, where were H. G. Wells, and many others; and him I found an affable, pleasant man, yet full, I thought, of great scorn for pretense. But he is able not to show this. Many told him they did not agree with this or that in "The Outline of History," but I, had I read it, doubtless should have agreed with all of it, such is my deference to those that know more than I. What I did disagree with him in is his belief that the chop or cut stroke in lawn tennis is unfair; but weightier matters were toward so I called him Herbert, and he said, Don't call me Herbert. So I feared he would rebuke me, but he added, Call me Young 'Erb. Which endeared him to me greatly. Sat late with H. Mencken and J. Siddall and others, and so home and to-bed.

3—All day at the office, and so home to dinner, cooked by our new handmaiden Miriam, and W. Enright there and A. Hill and Mabel, and thence to see E. O'Neill's play "Anna Christie," as good a play as I have seen, and Miss Pauline Lord's and Mr. George Marion's acting without any flaw soever. So home and to-bed.

4—At my stint all day, and in the evening to G. Rice's for dinner.

Complete characterizer—and one of many in that shining book—from "Vera": "Wemyss held forth. He stood on the hearthrug filling his pipe . . . and told everybody what he thought. They were talking about Ireland when he came in, and after the disturbance of his arrival had subsided he asked them not to mind but to go on. He then proceeded to go on himself, telling them what he thought; and what he thought was what The Times had thought that morning. Wemyss spoke with the practiced fluency of a leading article. He liked politics and constantly talked them at his club, and it created vacancies in the chairs near him."

Revelatory stuff about masculine complacency, pompousness, and corroding selfishness has appeared recently. In "Vera" and "Mr. Waddington of Wyck" the speculation wonder-what-a-man-thinks-about is played with—played with adroitly and with considerable bite in the humor. To those who are interested in that theme we recommend not only those books but also Meredith's "The Egoist," W. B. Maxwell's "In Cotton Wool," and Ring Lardner's "You Know Me Al," "Gullible's Travels" and "Champion."

The Personal Bartlett

"I am the master of my mate"
"John Anderson, my beau, John."
CORINNA.

* * *

"Grow bold along with me."
"She is not bare to outward view"
"Where do you come from, lager beer?"
RITA.

There is a revival on of the old Arthur Mometer—Isabel Necessary school of wheezes. "Do you know Hannah?" asked Margaret. "Hannah who?" queried Mr. Connelly, for it was indeed he. "Hannah golden hair was hanging down her back," was the reply. "Well," said Mr. Connelly, "there's Machiavelli." "Machiavelli who?" cried they all. "Machiavelli nice suit for $65," said Mr. C.

Mormon, late model, in wonderful shape.—New Orleans Times-Picayune. Still, it's never the initial cost.

Our apologies to J. S., aged seven, for having somewhat mistreated her composition, based on a story she had read, in yesterday's Tower. The omission of a line was our fault, due to carelessness in transcription, but the rest of it, dear Jane, was the fault of the nasty old linotyper and the silly old proofroom; and we called them names we hope you never will even hear.

"Hell!" said the Old Soak, who up to this time had taken no part in the conversation, to Don Marquis, "Them was the days! Used to have whisky rebellions an' things. Now we got milk riots! Hell!"

Speaking of Mr. Marquis, his new book, "Noah an' Jonah an' Cap'n John Smith," is just out. It is a swell book, and the other poems are, to our notion, even better than the first one. Which is meant for megaphonic praise.

Fair as is Mr. Louis Dodge's appraisal, in "The Sidewalks of New York" in the November Scribner's, of a certain column, he is unfair, we think, to the newspaper that column appears in. He should have said it was The New York Tribune.

Our advice to Mr. Reinald Werrenrath is not to sing, during the drivers' strike, the "May Day Carol." At least not that stanza ending "And fetch me a bowl of cream."

"Curran Dares Hylan to Deny He's a Tool in Hearst's Hands," headlines The Times. Au auger, obviously.

F. P. A.

"IS IT THE SCHOOL?"

The Seven Amendments

An Abstract of the Proposed Constitutional Changes

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Many voters are asking "What amendments are to be voted on next Tuesday?" They do not know, and therefore cannot give the matter the thought and attention it deserves. Would it not help if you should publish these amendments where they would catch the eye of the voting public? It would certainly mean that they would be voted upon much more intelligently than is usually the case.

New York, Nov. 3, 1921. R. S. B.

The essential features of the amendments to be submitted to the voters of this state at the general election on November 8 are here indicated:

Amendment No. 1 extends a preference in employment and promotion in the civil service to veterans of the Spanish and World wars. Civil War veterans already enjoy such preference. The text of this important amendment is as follows:

> Appointments and promotions in the civil service of the state, and of all the civil divisions thereof, including cities and villages, shall be made according to merit and fitness to be ascertained, so far as practicable, by examinations, which, so far as practicable, shall be competitive; provided, however, that honorably discharged soldiers, sailors and marines who shall have served as such in the army, navy or Marine Corps of the United States in time of war, who are citizens and residents of this state, shall be entitled to preference in appointment and promotion, without regard to their standing on any list from which such appointment or promotion may be made; provided they were residents of this state at the time they entered said army, navy or Marine Corps; and provided also that soldiers, sailors and marines who served in the Civil War shall have preference over all others on the same list. Laws shall be made to provide for the enforcement of this section.

Amendment No. 2 increases the salaries of members of the Legislature from $1,500 to $3,000.

Amendment No. 3 establishes a literacy test for voters. It provides that after January 1, 1922, "no person shall become entitled to vote by attaining majority, by naturalization or otherwise unless such person is also able, except for physical disability, to read and write English." Fifteen other states already enforce a similar requirement. The amendment does not affect the voting qualifications of those who are already citizens.

Amendment No. 4 provides that Westchester and Nassau counties may establish a governing body in place of a Board of Supervisors. It also provides that the Legislature may transfer the functions of town officers to county officers.

Amendment No. 5 authorizes the Legislature to establish children's courts and courts of domestic relations as separate courts or as parts of existing courts, and to confer upon them jurisdiction necessary for the correction, protection, guardianship and disposition of delinquent, neglected and dependent minors, and for the punishment of adults responsible in the premises.

At present the children's courts are not permitted to appoint guardians and have not adequate power to safeguard the interests of children. The amendment is supported by organizations working for children's welfare.

Amendment No. 6 permits the Legislature to dispose of that portion of the old Erie Canal lying between Rome and Mohawk.

Amendment No. 7 permits the Legislature to dispose of that portion of the old Erie Canal in the County of Herkimer, between the easterly portion of the village of Mohawk and the county boundary line between the counties of Herkimer and Oneida.

Foreign Traders' Exemption

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: I am in receipt of the following cablegram from the American Chamber of Commerce for Brazil:

> "American Chamber of Commerce for Brazil understands clause exempting foreign traders from income tax has been eliminated by Senate. American business in Brazil through this chamber strongly protests against this action so detrimental American foreign trade. European countries do not tax their foreign traders abroad. The terrific handicap imposed by tax demoralizing and greatly reduces American foreign trade. This chamber strongly urges Senate reconsideration and requests you bring every possible pressure for inclusion and passage of this most vital measure as passed by House."

This cablegram was forwarded to me as national councillor of the American Chamber of Commerce for Brazil. Our organization has been working for a number of months endeavoring to induce Congress to give Americans abroad an equal opportunity with their foreign competitors in developing export trade, and the House of Representatives had acted favorably in granting exemption to foreign traders 80 per cent of whose income was derived outside of the United States. The Senate, however, amended the bill and eliminated this provision.

At this period, when there is such need for the development of our foreign trade, it would seem that Congress would appreciate the situation and give our representatives living abroad an equal chance with the representatives of other foreign countries, our competitors.

We hope it is not too late for the Senate to alter its stand upon this important matter.

L. E. FREEMAN,
National Councillor American Chamber of Commerce for Brazil.
New York, Nov. 2, 1921.

A Multitude of Cooks

(From The Providence Journal)

What with the Interstate Commerce Commission, the Labor Board, forty-eight state commissions and the brotherhoods taking a hand in running the railroads, the doctor called in to examine a railroad manager suffering from nervous break-down should have no difficulty about determining the cause.

A Mark of Distinction

(From The Washington Star)

A trip to Washington, D. C., is now accounted as one of the possible rewards of distinguished reputation attained by European statesmen.

"Mussel" the Modern Form

Further Comment on the Name of the Tennessee River Shoals

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Mr. Vizetelly's interesting letter on the "Muscle" or "Mussel" controversy is entirely accurate, and yet—at least to me—quite unconvincing. That the two words are merely different forms of one and the same word is, of course, indisputable. It is also true that in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries the form "muscle" or "muskle" was alone used to designate the Mytilus or Unio shellfish, as well as an essential part of the human body.

But our language of to-day is not that of the seventeenth but of the twentieth century. For some reason, which I shall not try to elucidate, for the last half century and perhaps the last full century the form "mussel" has been uniformly used, in both America and England, to designate the mollusk, and "muscle" has been reserved exclusively for the fibrous tissues of the human or other fleshy body. Now, the essential point in the case is this, that the Tennessee River shoals were named for the mollusk, and that in order to indicate that fact their name should conform with that of the mollusc in spelling.

I do not know when the name was given to the shoals. If it was as far back as when the form "muscle" was applied to the shellfish, then it was correct to apply that form to the shoals. But then, when by universal consent the name of the shellfish was changed to the form "mussel," an ordinary regard for perspicuity should have dictated a like change in the name of the shoals.

A pertinent example is found in the Scottish town of Musselburgh, so named because of the great mussel beds in the adjacent waters. If it was ever called "Muscleburgh"—a point on which I am not informed—its name must have been changed to conform with the change in the name of the shellfish.

The mere fact that "mussels" were once called "muscles" does not warrant the present use of the obsolete form, any more than the fact that the Washington family name was once called Wessyngton would warrant our speaking of the "Wessyngton Monument."

So while Mr. Vizetelly is quite right in his etymological exposition, your editorial was equally right in contending that "Mussel" and not "Muscle" should be the name of the Tennessee River shoals.

W. F. J.

New York, Nov. 4, 1921.

A Horrible Example

(From The Philadelphia Record)

Maxim Gorky's fame—that is, the favorable part of his reputation—rests upon his skill as a novelist. As a prophet he hasn't ever batted very high, so what he may be pleased to predict as to the future of Russia doesn't greatly matter. He is still strong for the Soviet idea, though he believes the peasants will eventually overthrow the present ruling power, which he calls "industrial" labor—Heaven save the mark! Gorky appears to be none too hopeful of the result, but he adds: "Have confidence. Whatever happens, we shall have given a great example to the world." Which can only be true if we concede that even a horrible example, if sufficiently horrible, can be great.